



Recreation on the Water

Lake Oroville's usage changes with water recreation trends. Today's most popular uses for the lake include boating, wakeboarding, waterskiing and jet skiing. Boats can also pull into one of the more quiet forks of the lake to locate a choice picnicking and swimming spot along the scenic shorelines. Always be careful when swimming in Lake Oroville because there are no lifeguards present. The Lake Oroville State Recreation Area is operated by California State Parks. It is up to the visitor to understand and adhere to State Park Rules and Regulations. The Feather River is a great place to go kayaking and canoeing. For kayakers, the upper Feather River flows through steep-walled canyons with large boulders guiding the water flow and creating an exciting ride. The lower Feather River is wide and calm, perfect for a pleasant canoe trip and wildlife viewing.

Riverbend Park

Located downstream of Lake Oroville on the Feather River, Riverbend Park offers many recreational opportunities, including picnic areas, swimming, and a disc golf course, all with fantastic views of the nearby Feather River. This community park is accessible from Montgomery Street off Highway 70. For more information, contact the Feather River Recreation and Parks District at 530-533-2011.

Thermalito Facilities

The Thermalito Diversion Pool is a narrow, four mile long reservoir located between Oroville Dam and the Thermalito Diversion Dam. This quiet, secluded lake winds away from roads and is ideal for canoes and kayaks as no gas-engine watercraft are allowed.

The Thermalito Forebay and Afterbay are shallow reservoirs downstream from Lake Oroville. The North Forebay offers a 300-acre, day use area for picnicking, trout fishing, barbecuing, swimming and sunning. Restrooms and telephones are available, as are dressing rooms, potable water and parking. Boating is restricted to non-motorized boats, such as canoes and sailboats.

The South Forebay has picnic tables, barbecue grills, four-lane boat launch ramp, chemical toilets, a swim beach, and a fish cleaning station. Power boating and trout fishing are this site's top attractions.

The Thermalito Afterbay, and adjacent Feather River waterside lands, are part of the Oroville Wildlife Area (OWA), administered by the California Department of Fish and Game.

The Thermalito Afterbay features swimming, picnicking, boating, water skiing, hunting for waterfowl, pheasants, and doves, and fishing for trout and largemouth bass. In addition, the Afterbay is an excellent facility for operating personal watercraft.

Marinas, Boat Launches

Marinas have recreational equipment for rent, including houseboats, patio boats, jet skis, ski boats and fishing skiffs. They also sell bait and fishing tackle along with other necessities for outdoor activities. There are several boat launch ramps and cartop launching sites for canoes and other craft are widely dispersed.



Boat Owners Can Help Thwart Invasive Mussels

In addition to the two full service marinas on Lake Oroville, there are many boat launch ramps and access points widely dispersed around the Lake.

Recreationists who trailer boats to Lake Oroville should be aware that their watercraft are the primary transporters of aquatic nuisance species like zebra and quagga mussels as well as troublesome aquatic plants. Zebra and quagga mussels were introduced into Nevada's Lake Mead in January 2007 and since then have spread rapidly to several reservoirs in Southern California. Mussels colonize hard surfaces and, if introduced, could dramatically reduce food available to support the current high quality Lake Oroville fishery. Zebra and quagga mussels can also damage boats in a number of ways such as ruining engines by blocking the cooling system, increasing drag on the boat hull, causing boats to use more fuel, and increasing overall maintenance costs.

Boaters should follow good boating practices before launching in Lake Oroville or any water body in California, such as inspecting all exposed surfaces, washing their watercraft's hull thoroughly, removing all plants from the boat and trailer, draining all water including the lower outboard units, cleaning and drying live-wells and bait buckets, and depositing leftover bait in trash receptacles. Most importantly, watercraft should be dried for at least five days between launches in different fresh waters. These steps will help to maintain the excellent fishery and outstanding recreational opportunities in Lake Oroville.

For more information about zebra and quagga mussels, call the Department of Fish and Game's information line at (866) 440-9530 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or visit <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/invasives/quaggamussel/>

Fishing, Fish Hatchery

Lake Oroville has both coldwater and warmwater fisheries. Bass fishing is highly rated, and the lake hosts numerous tournaments. Warmwater species include spotted bass, largemouth, redeye and smallmouth bass, as well as catfish, bluegill, and crappie. The spotted bass is the most frequent catch.

Coldwater species are also present. Oroville is the only lake in California where coho salmon are stocked. Although some rainbow trout are caught each year, the coho, or silver salmon, dominate the catch. Coho are highly prized by Lake Oroville anglers because they readily take bait and lures, fight very hard, and make excellent table fare.

DWR works with the Department of Fish and Game to maintain a vigorous fishery in Lake Oroville and the upper Feather River reservoirs.

The Feather River Fish Hatchery below Lake Oroville and the rearing ponds near Thermalito Afterbay annually produce millions of Chinook salmon and steelhead trout. From late September through early November, visitors can see salmon return to the hatchery to spawn. Their migration up the Feather River is redirected at the Fish Barrier Dam. From there, they climb the fish ladder into the hatchery. DFG experts monitor hatchery conditions, assuring that healthy fish are produced from eggs taken from returning Chinook salmon in the fall and steelhead trout in the winter. The hatchery is open to the public year-round for self-guided tours. For school field trips by appointments in the fall, call (530) 534-2306.



Historical Spots

In 1848, shortly after the discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill, General John Bidwell found deposits of the precious metal near the Feather River's Middle Fork. Almost overnight, the tent town of Ophir City was born. In 1856, the community's name was changed to Oroville.

Oroville Dam

Take a stroll, jog, rollerblade or bicycle along the crest of the nation's tallest dam.

Visitors Center

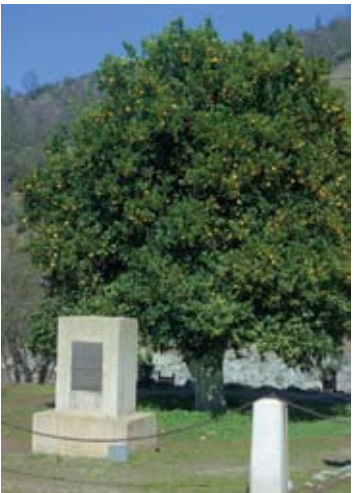
Lake Oroville's Visitors Center is operated jointly by DWR and the California Department of Parks and Recreation. It's a great place for visitors to orient themselves to Lake Oroville's recreational and engineering marvels. Here you can obtain specific information ranging from where to camp to how to rent a houseboat.

Overlooking the lake just east of Oroville Dam at the north end of Kelly Ridge Road, the center features multi-media exhibits with general information about the dam that illustrate how the Oroville Complex delivers water near and far. There's also an explanation of the Oroville-Thermalito Complex hydroelectric operations.

There are exhibits interpreting the culture of local Native American tribes and the European-era history of the region, including stories of the Gold Rush period.

Forty-five videos are available in the center's free theater and visitors may also enjoy a spectacular lake view from a 46-foot, telescope-equipped observation tower. Easy-walking nature trails begin at the Visitors Center for those eager to get outdoors in this spectacular area.

The Visitors Center is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day of the year except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Admission is free. For more information, call (530) 538-2219.



south end of the lake, 1.5 miles from its original location.

A dramatic chapter in history is commemorated at the Ishi Monument, which memorializes the last of the Yahi Indians. The monument is located along the Oroville-Quincy Highway. Also of interest is the Mother Orange Tree, the oldest of all northern California orange trees. Originally from Mazatlan, Mexico, the tree was a favorite attraction of Gold Rush miners who saved its seeds for planting outside their cabins. Transplanted from near the Bidwell Bar suspension bridge during the State Water Project construction, the tree now is next to the Department of Parks and Recreation headquarters on Glen Drive.

Overall, Lake Oroville offers more recreational variety than any other lake or reservoir in California. DWR continues to work with its stakeholders and the Department of Parks and Recreation to develop facilities that take advantage of the lake's recreational opportunities.

Project Financing

The \$1.75 billion bond issue of 1960 provided initial funding for the State Water Project, which includes Lake Oroville. Approximately 70 percent of the water goes to urban users and 30 percent to agriculture. Twenty-nine urban and agricultural water agencies have long-term contracts for delivery of State Water Project water. They are repaying the cost, plus interest, of financing, building, operating, and maintaining the State Water Project water storage and delivery system.

Camping

In addition to conventional campsites, Lake Oroville features unique floating, boat-in and equestrian camps. The floating campsites are ideal for those who wish to have a one-of-a-kind personal camping experience. These individual floating islands consist of two-story platforms anchored in scenic coves, each featuring on-board restrooms and propane barbecues. Boat-in campsites are particularly desirable when the reservoir level is high, giving direct and easy access by water. Lake Oroville's horse camp is well known in equestrian circles. Here, riders will find shower stalls, feed troughs, and other amenities for their horses near access points to nearby trails. Lake Oroville also has RV campsites with complete hookups.



Oroville Wildlife Area

This area teems with wildlife, including many species of fish and birds. Birdwatchers can look for 178 species. The Oroville Wildlife Area is open to hunting for a variety of species, including upland game, waterfowl, deer and rabbits. A limited spring turkey season is offered through a special drawing. The Oroville Wildlife Area abounds in warmwater fishing opportunities. Largemouth bass and bluegill are plentiful in the many dozens of ponds found in the area. Swimming and primitive campsites are also available. For more information, call the Department of Fish and Game at the Oroville Wildlife Area headquarters, (530) 538-2236.

The federal government paid \$77 million of the total Oroville Complex construction costs. Another \$188 million in State General Fund money paid for recreation and for fish and wildlife enhancement, which benefit all Californians.

More Information

California Department of Parks and Recreation
400 Glen Drive, Oroville
(530) 538-2200

For campsite reservations: 1-800-444-PARK
<http://cal-parks.ca.gov>

Oroville Area Chamber of Commerce
1-800-655-GOLD
www.lakeoroville.net

Oroville Visitor and Tourism Bureau
1-800-OROVILLE

Feather River Parks and Recreation District
1-530-533-2011
<http://www.frrpd.com>

And visit DWR's "Welcome to Lake Oroville" Web site
www.lakeoroville.water.ca.gov



Feather Falls



Located in the Plumas National Forest, the 640 feet high Feather Falls, is the sixth tallest waterfall in the United States. There are two trails to the head of Feather Falls. For the more experienced hiker, there's a steep 3.3 mile trail with about two miles of uphill grade. A gently sloping 4.5 mile path is ideal for the inexperienced hiker. To get to the falls, take Highway 162 east, turn right on Forbestown Road for 6.3 miles, left on Lumpkin Road for 11.4 miles and watch for the sign marking the left hand turn for Feather Falls, drive another 1.5 miles to the free parking area. There are restrooms and a water spigot at the trailhead near the parking area, but bring drinking water for the hike since there is no potable water. This hike is strenuous and best in the shoulder seasons when temperatures are not excessively hot.

Mountain Biking

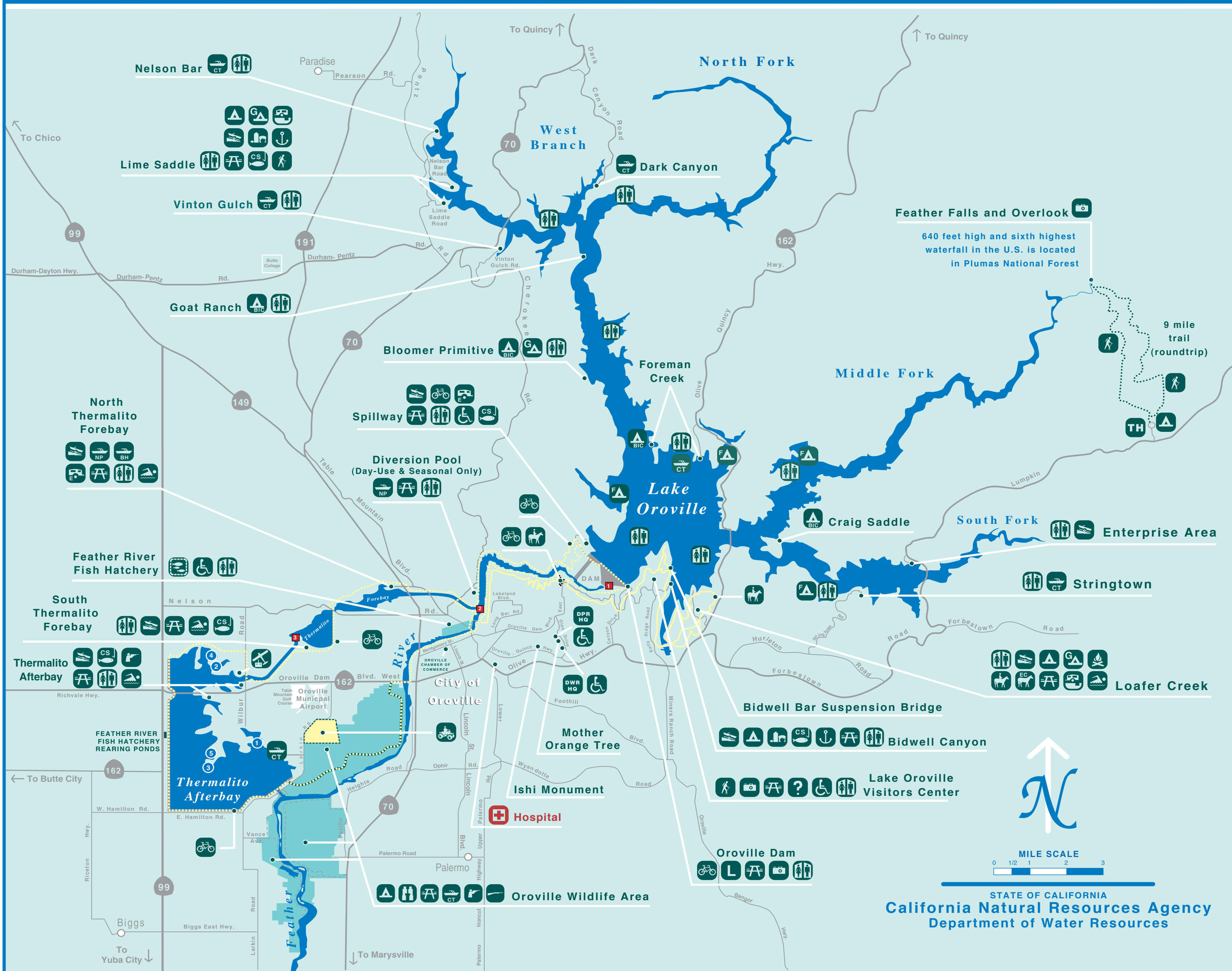
The 41 mile Brad B. Freeman Bike Trail covers a variety of terrain around the Oroville area, making it perfect for mountain bike riders of all skill levels. Part of the trail, located near the crest of Oroville Dam, is dirt and offers a steep, more difficult ride. The rest of the trail consist of about 30 miles of flat terrain winding around the Thermalito Forebay, Thermalito Afterbay, and the Oroville Wildlife Area, parts of which are paved.

Equestrian Trails



































Many trails for horseback riding surround Lake Oroville. The Dan Beebe trail has both difficult and easy terrain. The Loafer Creek Horse Camp is available for those who plan to spend more than one day in the area. This is a fully-developed campsite with showers and restrooms. The horse camp is equipped with shower stalls and feed mangers for the horses. Restroom facilities and trailheads are located nearby.

If you need this publication in an alternate form, please contact the Public Affairs Office at: 1-800-272-8869

Lake Oroville Area Recreation Map



SYMBOLS LEGEND

-  **Bike Trail/40 mile loop**
 -  **Boating**
 -  **Boat/Car Top Access**
 -  **Boat House**
 -  **Boating/No Power**
 -  **Boat Launch**
 -  **Boat-In-Camping**
 -  **Campfire Center**
 -  **Campground**
 -  **Camping/Floating**
 -  **Camping/Group**
 -  **Concessions**
 -  **Dump Station**
 -  **Enroute Camping**
 -  **Equestrian Trail/17.5 mile loop**
 -  **Equestrian Camp**
 -  **Fish Cleaning Station**
 -  **Hatchery Self-Guided Tour**
 -  **HEADQUARTERS**
Department of Water Resources, 460 Glen Drive
 -  **HEADQUARTERS**
Department of Parks and Recreation, 400 Glen Drive
 -  **HEADQUARTERS**
Department of Fish and Game
 -  **Hiking**
 -  **Hunting** (check with Dept. Fish & Game)
 -  **Lighting**
 -  **Marina**
 -  **Model Airplane Airport**
 -  **Nature Study**
 -  **OHV-ATV** (Clay Pit SVRA)
 -  **Picnicking**
 -  **Restrooms/includes 7 floating**
 -  **Shooting** (where posted)
 -  **Swimming**
 -  **Trailhead/with parking**
 -  **Vista Point**
 - **Visitor Center**
 - **Wheelchair Access**
 - **Wildlife Area**
 - **Clay Pit SVRA**
 - **Power Plants**
 1. Hyatt Pumping-Generating Plant & Area Control Center
 2. Thermaito Diversion Dam and Powerplant
 3. Thermaito Pumping-Generating Plant
 - **Brood Ponds**